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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/526,490	03/04/2005	Takashi Aoki	SON-2842	7483

23353 7590 10/03/2007
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1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

BITAR, NANCY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/03/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/526,490

Applicant(s)

AOKI ET AL.

Examiner

Nancy Bitar

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/4/2005.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figures 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Examiner Notes

2. Examiner cites particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that, in preparing responses, the applicant fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al (4,907,283).

As to claim 1, Tanaka et al. teaches an image processing apparatus for trimming out a part of image data stored in a memory (image memory 101) and transferring the trimming image data, the image processing apparatus comprising:

image data reading means for reading image data from a memory (image memory 101 for storing image data read by the image input unit 100);

and controlling means for controlling the image data reading means that reads the image data from the memory(image memory 101), wherein when a part of image data stored in the memory is trimmed (character trimming unit, 102), the controlling means is configured to control the image data reading means so as to read the image data for each column at a time from the memory (character information table 103 comprises a character number column 109 for identifying the respective characters, columns 110 to 113 for storing the data Xi, Yi, Wi, and Hi, and a degenerate code column 114; column 3, lines 60-68) .

As to claim 2, Tanaka et al teaches the image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the controlling means is configured to supply address information that represents an address from which image data are read for one column (In step S602, the degenerate code table 107 is accessed using the character codes (address data) of the standard character code train stored in the key buffer 650 to read out the corresponding degenerate code. The readout degenerate code is stored in the degenerate code buffer 651. The degenerate code table 107 is prepared by classification according to a method of generating a degenerate code corresponding to each standard character code, column 5, lines 17-39) and read width information that represents the horizontal size of one column and cause the data reading means to start reading the image data from the memory so as to control the image data reading means (figure 2, 3, note that the size of the rectangular area can be extracted by comparison between the headline characters. A rectangular area including all adjacent characters in the headline characters is used as a headline area, figure 30).

As to claims 3 and 4, Tanaka et al teaches the image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising: a plurality of image data reading means connected to different buses, wherein the controlling means is configured to control each of the plurality of image data reading means (The control unit 5102 comprises a RAM 5103, a ROM 5104 for storing programs, and a CPU 5105 (bus), figure 16)

As to claim 5, Tanaka et al teaches an image processing method for trimming out a part of image data stored in a memory and transferring the trimming image data, the image processing method comprising the step of: when a part of image data stored in the memory is Trimmed (figure 2 is view showing the trimming), reading the image data for each column at a time from the memory (a recognition unit for recognizing information representing each image information in the area trimmed by the trimming unit for trimming the area of EACH character, column 3, lines 30-49).

As to claim 6, Tanaka et al teaches the image processing method as set forth in claim 5, wherein image data for one column are designated by an address from which the image data are read (In step S602, the degenerate code table 107 is accessed using the character codes (address data) of the standard character code train stored in the key buffer 650 to read out the corresponding degenerate code. The readout degenerate code is stored in the degenerate code buffer 651. The degenerate code table 107 is prepared by classification according to a method of generating a degenerate code corresponding to each standard character code, column 5, lines 17-39) and read width information that represents the horizontal size of one column (figures 2 and 3, Wi and Hi).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nancy Bitar whose telephone number is 571-270-1041. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (7:30a.m. to 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samir Ahmed can be reached on 571-272-7413. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nancy Bitar

9/25/2007



SAMIR AHMED
PRIMARY EXAMINER